

AFRICAN DANCE IN GHANA: CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS

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The Book

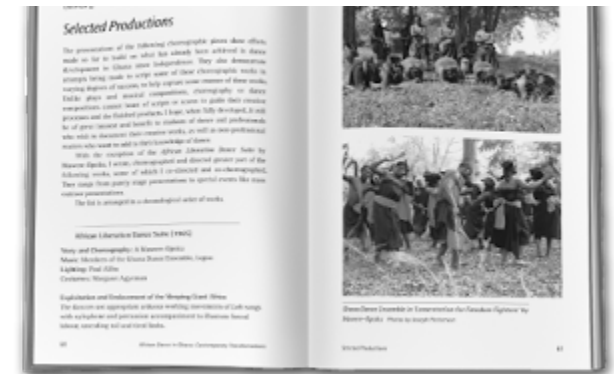
In *African Dance in Ghana: Contemporary Transformations*, Professor Francis Nii-Yartey tells the fascinating story of the development of dance – both traditional and contemporary – since the country's independence. It charts the people and events that influenced the new forms of dance and their impact on art, culture and national identity. These new forms of dances combine centuries-old tradition with a yearning for original expression and innovation. Nii-Yartey is uniquely equipped

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dance in Ghana and West Africa: from the traditional dances at special occasions to contemporary performances in Ghana and elsewhere.

African Dance in Ghana: Contemporary Transformations includes a chapter with detailed choreographic instructions to 18 dance pieces, most of which were written, choreographed and directed by Nii-Yartey. They form an invaluable legacy to his career. This book is not only aimed at students of African dance, but also anyone who want to discover the rich dance traditions of Ghana.


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The Author

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In 2006 Nii-Yartey was appointed Distinguished Visiting Cornell Professor at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, USA. He also taught at Ashesi University in Ghana and was a Visiting Professor at Keene State College, USA.



Nii-Yartey travelled extensively, conducting workshops, lecturing and choreographing. He was President of the Ghana Chapter of the International Dance Council (UNESCO). In 1998, Nii-Yartey began his own dance institution to explore his choreographic vision: Noyam African Dance Institute, the first of its kind in the country. In his written work, scholarship and choreographic works, Nii-Yartey worked to investigate ways in which dance can both reflect and shape social change.

His many awards included the Grand Medal (Civil Division) by the Head of State of Ghana for his contribution to choreography and dance development generally in Ghana.

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Nii's choreographic works have thrilled numerous audiences, conveying dynamic and compelling contemporary stories outlining the plight, pride, endurance, humour, ingenuity, strength and the underlying spiritual attributes of African peoples through the medium of dance.

◀ // Nii now cements his artistic legacy in African Dance in Ghana: Contemporary Transformations his first major literary undertaking. Through his Ghanaian lens, Nii reveals the major elements that form what he ▶ // termed 'choreographic pillars', which constitute the foundational guiding principles in the creation of traditional and African dance practices symbols that enable the reading of meaning within themes, the encoded and embodied signs and also establish the key creative and aesthetic contemporary African dance vocabulary.

'H' Patten

choreographer and artistic director, Koromanti Arts, UK

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